

Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-14 USIA-12 IO-12 EB-11 TRSE-00 COME-00 T-03 RSR-01

/155 W

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R 191518 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6092

INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, TO, DM, NI

SUBJ: DAHOMEY AGREES IN PRINCIPLE TO ABOLISH TAX ON GOODS
TRANSITING BETWEEN TOGO AND NIGERIA

REF: LOME 0515

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED FOLLOWING MEETING FORMINS DAHOMEY, NIGERIA
AND TOGO, TEXT OF WHICH APPEARED TOGO PRESSE THIS MORNING, STATED
THAT DISCUSSIONS HAD FOCUSED ON QUESTION OF CIRCULATION TAX
WHICH MRGD IMPOSES UPON MERCHANDISE TRANSITING DAHOMEY ENROUTE
FROM TOGO TO NIGERIA AND TOOK NOTE OF DECLARATION BY DAHOMEAN
MINISTER THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO ABOLISH THIS TAX.
MINISTERS ACCORDINGLY AGREED THAT COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS FROM
THREE COUNTRIES WILL MEET IN LAGOS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO STUDY
QUESTION AND:

A. RECOMMEND WAYS AND MEANS TO ASSURE THAT MERCHANDISE ACTUALLY
DESTINED FOR NIGERIA WOULD NOT BE SUBJECT DAHOMEAN TAX;

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B. RECOMMEND PROCEDURES TO ASSURE THAT MERCHANDISE WHICH IS NOT LEGALLY ADMISSIBLE INTO NIGERIA IS NOT SOLD ON THE DAHOMEAN MARKET;

C. RECOMMEND MEANS OF PROVIDING CLOSER COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THREE COUNTRIES.

COMMENT: MFA DIRECTOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION DIVISION PEDANOU, WHEN QUERIED BY EMBOFFS AS TO POSSIBILITY ARRANGING FOR SHIPMENTS OF MERCHANDISE IN BOND ACCROSS DAHOMEY, EXPLAINED THAT SUBJECT COMMERCE CARRIED ON BY SMALL TRADERS WHO PURCHASE GOODS ON LOCAL MARKET IN GOTO, AND PERSONALLY CARRY THEM BY COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT TO NIGERIA. THEY LACK MEANS TO PURCHASE IN VOLUME AND TO BUY OR HIRE TRUCKS WHICH COULD BE USED TO TRANSPORT LARGE QUANTITIES GOODS IN BOND THROUGH DAHOMEY. DICKINSON

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TAGS: PFOR, NI, TO
To: AF
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LONDON
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